Herbicide Control of Tufted Hardgrass in a Bermudagrass Athletic Field. (C05-fagerness110010-Oral)

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Abstract:

A field study was initiated in August 2001 in Newton, Kansas to investigate the effects of various herbicides on development of tufted hardgrass, a winter annual grass found in the southern Great Plains. The increased use of bermudagrass as a desired athletic field turf in this region has resulted in growing reports of hardgrass as a problematic weed that thrives during the early spring when bermudagrass is still dormant. Hardgrass is a prolific seed producer that thrives under compacted soil conditions common to heavily trafficked turf areas. The study was a split plot with the presence or absence of an early spring glyphosate application as the main plots and various fall herbicide treatments as subplots. Fall herbicide treatments were prodiamine, dithiopyr, pendimethalin, atrazine, simazine, metribuzin, and pronamide. Results showed that glyphosate applied in early spring was highly effective against hardgrass, regardless of fall herbicide treatment. Pronamide and the triazine herbicides were also highly effective as fall applications without subsequent use of glyphosate. Preemergence herbicides were the least effective overall but did reduce populations of hardgrass.

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